

Regional Director, Mpls., Minn.

February 27, 1948

Chief, Division of Wildlife Refuges, Washington D.C.

Water Management Plan - Lake Andes Refuge.

Water Management Plan for the Lake Andes Refuge, South Dakota, submitted with your memorandum of December 30, 1947, is approved as submitted.

J. Clark SalyerII

Regional Director, Mpls., Minn.

December 13, 1947

Refuge Manager, Fort Niobrara Refuge.

Water Management Plan - Lake Andes Refuge, So. Dak.

Spillway crest elevations--Main Lake, and recommended level for water.

Unit	Crest of spill. elev.	Recommended level
Lower Unit	100'	97.5
Center Unit	97.5	97.5
Upper Unit	99.5	99.5
Owens Bay Area	6.0 on gauge	5.0 on gauge

The elevations of the main lake are based on the assumed elevation of 100 feet at the lower control structure. The Owens Bay Area has never been tied in with the other elevations.

All units were very low last fall. The old artesian well on the Owens Bay area failed. New wells are now being drilled on the Owens Bay area and also on the old fish hatchery site owned by the State of South Dakota. It is expected that these wells will be in operation this spring. Surplus water from the State well on the hatchery will flow into the Owens Bay area. The two wells should keep the Owens Bay unit full with some water spilling into the lower unit.

The main lake depends on runoff water which is always short. Therefore the water management program calls for holding all the water, whenever it comes, for as long as possible.

John D. Connors